

I believe that merging Technician and Tech Plus into a single class is a very worthwhile move for the future of the amateur service. I believe, however, that Tech Plus amateurs should also have additional HF phone privileges - either an extension of the Novice/Technician subband on 10 or a small allocation on 15 or 20 meters. The amount of interest in HF this would generate would most likely overcrowd the 200 kHz segment currently allocated on 10 meters.

I feel, however, that raising the bar on the Morse code element for the Amateur Extra license is unnecessary. Since the requirement was dropped to 5 wpm and several hams upgraded their licenses, there hasn't been any reports of major abuse of the bands. I do feel that a tougher technical exam for the Amateur Extra license would promote a deeper commitment and broader range of technical knowledge for those who choose to become Amateur Extra operators.